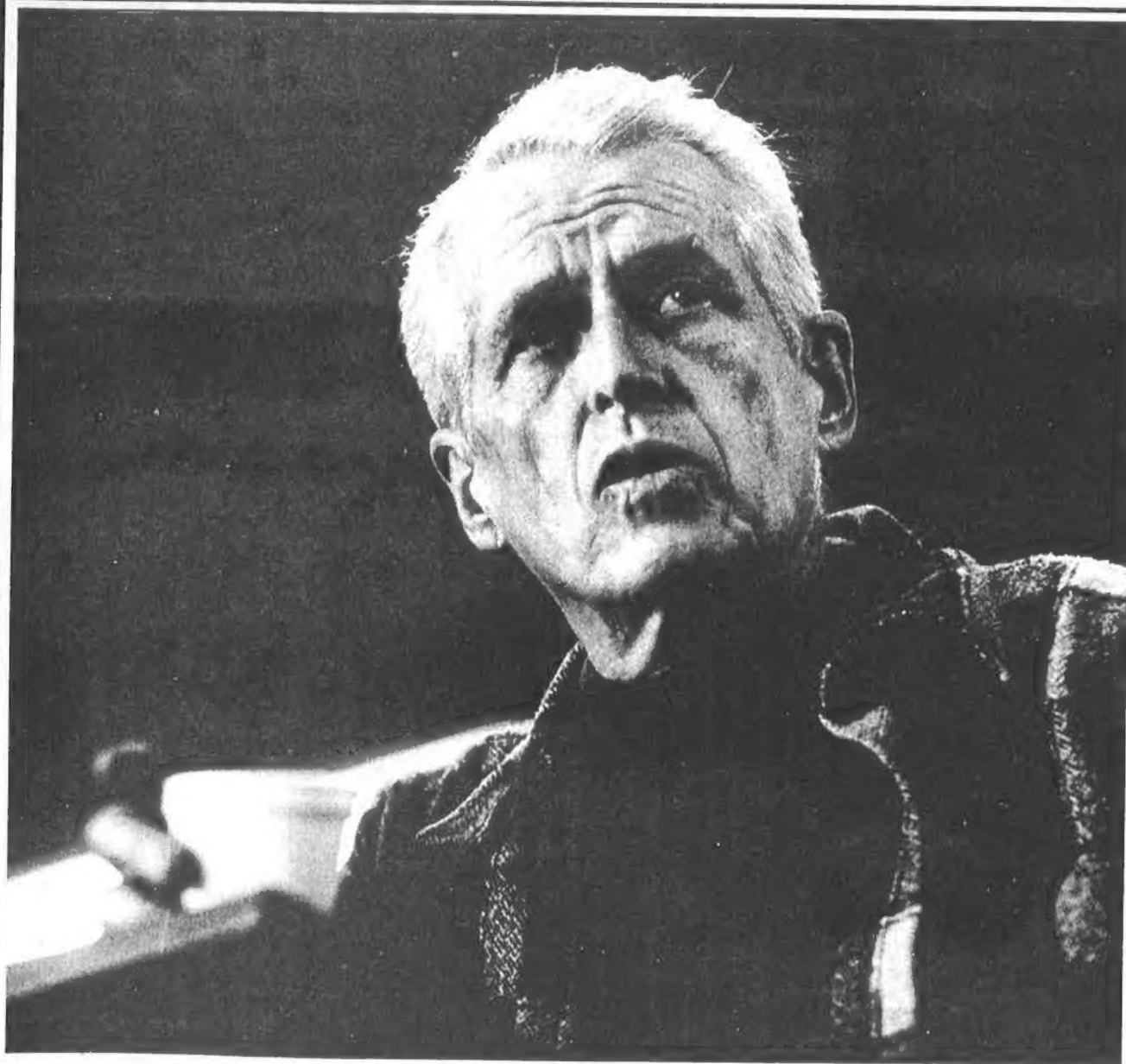




# *via pacis*

*Newsletter of the Des Moines Catholic Worker Community*



Phillip Berrigan

October 6, 1923 - December 6, 2002

# Phil Berrigan May He Rest in Peace

Fr. Frank Cordaro

Berrigan, the man who invented the nonviolent resistance wheel of life and so many other Catholic peace and nonviolent peace ways to live by, is dead. Rest in peace, Phil. Life well lived! Your legacy on. You left behind the gift of a lifetime of faithful nonviolent resistance to war and the threat of mass destruction.

Phil in Iowa City, in the fall of 1977, I was in my third year of college after spending the summer of 1976 working at the Davenport Catholic Worker. That fall I was doing my internship at Center East, Catholic Newman Center for the University of Iowa.

Then, the whole history of the church's anti-war tradition came to me as was the USA's anti-war efforts during the Vietnam War. Yet, some early reading of the study introduced me to the work of Phil and Dan Berrigan on anti-Vietnam War efforts. So when Phil came to town, I was anxious to know what the Berrigan brothers had to say in post-Vietnam War USA. Drawing a large crowd, he spoke at the Jonah House in Baltimore, where he and Liz McAllister, and children were speaking of their human rights protests at the pillars of the Pentagon, he invited all of us to join in their efforts.

There was much in his message that spoke to me. He was a Catholic who called for active nonviolent resistance, the scriptures, and our tradition seriously. The work of the Jonah House community was just "talking the talk." They were walking the nonviolent resistance walk that Jesus walked.

In question and answer time to his talk, I stated that it was all good for him and his friends to go to the Pentagon to protest war and weapons of mass destruction, but "what about people in Iowa (at the time, Iowa was the smallest recipient of tax dollars), who have no money or White House to protest?" Phil's exact words; "There is no place in this country where the government does not have its presence. The military industrial complex is everywhere. You just have to look."

In a few years, we were protesting and being arrested at the Grand Arsenal, on the east coast of Iowa and at the Strategic Air Command Headquarters / Offutt AFB, on the west coast of Iowa. In 1980, we even protested the Wellman missile plant in Creston, IA, where the work being done for the cruise missile. Today, we in Des Moines don't even need to leave our city to find an active presence of the Pentagon at work. The Strategic Air National Guard and the fighter planes they use to enforce no-fly zones over Iraq are based at the airport, walking away from the neighborhood in which I was raised. Phil's words ring more true than ever. The military industrial complex is everywhere. You have to look for it.

I met Phil the second time in August, 1977, while I attended a two-week summer training session with the Jonah House folks. At the end of our training, on August 9th, the anniversary of the USA bombing of Nagasaki, Japan, I did my first act of civil disobedience. Five of us poured our blood on the pillars at the Pentagon; we were immediately arrested and I spent 30 days in jail, a real baptism by fire. It was life changing for me.

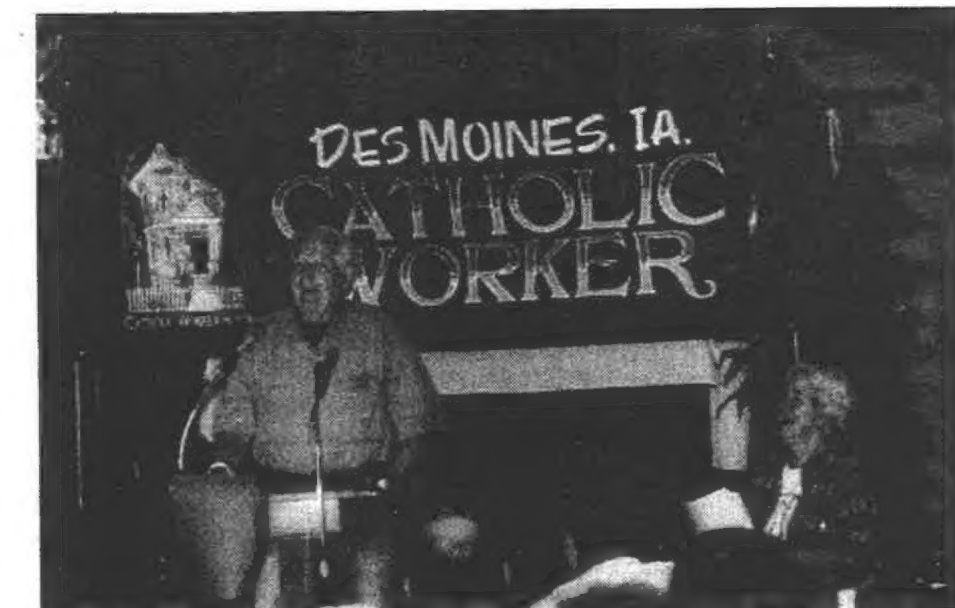
From a Catholic sacramental point of view, our blood pouring was a powerful liturgical action. Its truth and reality is as true and real as anything we claim in our Eucharist. For me, connecting our blood spilling at the Pentagon to the theology of the Eucharist became a whole new way of thinking and acting, rooted in a sacramental world view.

Our next meeting was in November, 1979. I was with Phil and Liz at Jonah House the night before I stood in front of President Jimmy Carter to protest nuclear weapons and the Salt II Treaty. Phil and Liz suggested I take ashes, to represent the ashes of those who will die by the bomb. The ashes came from the Jonah House woodstove. Thereafter, my relationship with Phil and the Jonah House Community deepened and grew. I was no longer just an admirer of the Berrigan /Jonah House lifestyle. We became dear and trusted friends.

Over the last 25 years, the east coast faith-based nonviolent resistance communities have increased in number and strength. More a tribe than a movement, these good and holy people have been doing the hard work of nonviolent resistance and peacemaking. Dragged into countless courtrooms, afforded little justice, even less respect, spending many, many years, collectively, in jails and prisons in this country, they are the communal fruits of Phil's good work. The rest of us across the country, who have taken up the call to nonviolently resist war and warmaking, have associated ourselves with the folks at Jonah House and Atlantic Life Communities in a web conspiracy connecting hundreds, if not thousands, of peace people. This extended nonviolent resistance family reaches beyond our national borders into Europe and Australia. It is truly a worldwide movement.

In 1980, using lessons learned from the draft board raids of the anti-Vietnam War days, Phil, brother Dan, and six others entered a General Electric Missile factory in King of Prussia, PA. With ordinary hammers and blood they nonviolently "disarmed" Mark 12 missile nose cones. With this witness, the Plowshares movement was birthed.

The Prophet Isaiah had a vision of world peace and justice in which "swords will be beat into plowshares" and "nations study war no more" (Isaiah 2). The Plowshares activists do what nations and churches seem incapable of doing -



Phil Berrigan & Liz McAllister at the 20th Anniversary of the Des Moines Catholic Worker, August 1996



Phil Berrigan at a News Conference, Liguitti House, August 1996

enacting the Isaiahan vision by actually disarming weapons of mass destruction. These Plowshares activists face great personal risk, many years in court, jails and probation with heavy fines to pay.

Between 1980 and 1998, I had made it a point to visit Jonah House before or after a jail experience. The timing made it easier for me to take the anticipated "walk with Phil." During these walks, Phil inevitably asked whether I was up to joining the latest Plowshares action. It was always easier to turn down an invitation from Phil after or before my going to jail. As a result, I put off doing a Plowshares action for many years. Line crossing at Offutt and doing a six month bit was all the risk-taking I was prepared to do.

I finally joined the ranks of a Plowshares activist in May, 1998, as a member of the Gods of Medal Plowshares. Five of us took our hammers and blood and tried to disarm a B52 bomber at an air show at Andrews AFB. It was the most challenging, difficult, gut wrenching, honest, fear-plagued, life-giving and truthful thing I ever did.

Phil visited Des Moines twice. In January, 1982, he spoke at St. Paul's Episcopal Church and in August, 1996, he and Liz came as the main speakers at our DMCW 20th anniversary celebration.

The last time I saw Phil was in the last week of his life. I was blessed to be able to spend four days in Baltimore after Art Laffin's wedding celebration in Washington, DC. I stayed with our friends at Viva

Catholic Worker House and spent my days at Jonah House with Phil, his family and the Jonah House community. Scores of supporters came to say their good-byes to Phil. I joined in the Communal Anointing of the Sick, led by Dan Berrigan, the Saturday before Phil's death. I felt like we were vigiling at the deathbed of a prophet. It was a holy and blessed time for me. I returned home two days before he died.

For his faithful witnessing, Phil served over 11 years of jail time. A WW II vet, a Roman Catholic priest, a loving husband and father of three wonderful children, he lived a holy and noble life. His resistance lifestyle demonstrated what being faithful to the Gospel message looked like in the last half of the 20th century. It was one of the few authentic models of radical Christian living in first-world America - at the center of the empire. Open to any one, it is a movement embracing the nonviolent spirit of God which may be the difference between the human family surviving or not. The stakes are that high.

I remember a conversation I had with Bishop Dingman about Phil and the folks at Jonah House. I told him how impressed I was with the communal resistance way of life at Jonah House. For all their activism, communal living, protesting and prayer life, the thing that impressed me the most about the Jonah House community was how central the scriptures were to the everyday life of the community. I told the Bishop that visiting Phil Berrigan and the folks at Jonah House was like visiting a primitive Christian community of apostolic times.

Thank you, Phil. May you rest in peace. Life well lived! May your nonviolent resistance wheel of life roll on and on...

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# Life in Romania: It's No Sacrifice at A

by Laura Fuller

Laura Fuller, the daughter of *via pacis* editor Fran Fuller, has been in Romania for the past six months on a one-year mission assignment with Food for the Hungry International. She is seconded to a national organization called Blythswood, for whom she works in a Christian Daycare and Canteen Center, which reaches out to children from the poorest and most vulnerable families in Jimbolia, and she also teaches English in the public school.



Laura Fuller and kids

Sitting with a fellow volunteer in the local pizzeria in Jimbolia, I was looking to relax and free my mind from the exhaustion I was feeling. It had been a long day of traveling around to areas in the outskirts of our town and

everywhere in between to visit the homes of the first through fourth grade children in our after-school program. The two of us had been stuffed sideways in the loose back seat of a rickety Dacia, with the front seat chairs pushed against our long legs, as we bounced down the bumpy, snow-covered roads.

Now, sitting inside the smoky warmth of the little restaurant, my toes were still a bit numb, my body a little sore, and my mind haunted by the sights of poverty I had witnessed in the lives of many children who have become so dear to me. The lack of doors, windows, electricity, toilets, running water, and sometimes even love was shocking.

My mind drifted on to all the work that was left to do over the next couple of days, as the staff prepared to join the school children on Christmas holiday. My colleagues and I faced several more days of staying up late and getting up early, more hours of paperwork on our children, more mornings of waiting for parents to come and pick up parcels, another evening unloading donations from a semi-truck and, for me, more moments of missing out on Christmas back home for the first time.

"But it's no sacrifice. No sacrifice. It's no sacrifice at all," Elton John sang over the restaurant speakers. Clearly,

these lines were written just for me, just for this moment. After all, I am often told by people, and perhaps I accidentally tell myself the same thing at times, that I have made an admirable sacrifice to come to Romania on this mission. "But it's no sacrifice. No sacrifice. It's no sacrifice at all."

But, you're putting your life on hold! You're giving up convenience, health, safety, comfort, and familiarity! You're giving up your friends, your family, your church, and your stuff! "But it's no sacrifice. No sacrifice. It's no sacrifice at all." I think again of the words I once spoke over the radio in a pre-departure interview: "I am not putting my life on hold; I am finally starting to figure out what it means to live!"

Yet, here I am. I am washing mold off my walls, eating chicken hearts and liver, unloading semi-trucks, living without running hot water, missing my family and friends, getting every cold that the children have, swatting hoards of mosquitoes in my living room, and sitting through a church service and understanding very little.

Yet, here I am. I am sitting at the kitchen table of a nice apartment (where I live with a fellow American volunteer), with my DELL laptop in front of me, my mind functioning



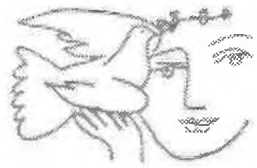
L to R: Miriam Weideger and Laura Fuller  
Center: Romanian street musician in traditional costume

well as I write, and food and water in my stomach and pumping through me. Heat flows from the radiator. The smell of soap lingers on my skin, hair, and clothes. I enjoy my hot cup of coffee. This is supposed to be sacrifice? Have I forgotten how many people in Romania, indeed around the world, would love to be sitting here in my place right now?

I have come to share God's love with some of these poorest of the poor in Romania. These are folks who do not have the most basic of necessities, let alone the luxuries that we often come to see as necessities. I have come, in particular, to help the young children in these families physically, mentally, socially, and spiritually. The needs of the world have been upon my heart, and my faith called me to do what I could to help them. Coming to Romania was a natural response for me

to the call in 1 Peter that one should use whatever he has received to help others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms."

It seems, though, the struggle is found in the fact that soon follows that which says, "If anyone would love him, he should do it with strength God provides, in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. There is often a temptation on the 'muddy field' to start doing things in our own strength and for our own glory. We inadvertently begin to accept compliments that focus on us than on God. We forget that we are simply out our faith and that something that all of us are called to do, albeit in various forms. In faithfully participating with God in such work, we not only experience sacrifice but discover life.



## 2003 Bishop Dingman Peace Award Dinner April 26th, 2003 Catholic Pastoral Center 601 Grand Ave, Des Moines, IA

This year's award recipient is American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), Iowa Program. Ched Myers is the keynote speaker. He is an ecumenical activist who travels widely in an evangelistic ministry of teaching, writing and organizing in order to help build the movement of faith-based work and witness for peace, justice and radical discipleship.

AFSC and Catholic Peace Ministry celebrate a long history of conspiring for peace locally, nationally and globally. The Dingman Dinner has been a time of community and fellowship for such friends in the Des Moines area. It is the kind of event we need to celebrate these hard days more than ever. Please mark your calendar and plan to join us at table to pray, celebrate, sing, eat and share the word together. Contact Brian Terrell for details at 515-255-8114 or [cpm-ia@juno.com](mailto:cpm-ia@juno.com).



Two boys in front of their home near Cluj, Romania

### via pacis

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Web site: [www.no-nukes.org/dmcw/](http://www.no-nukes.org/dmcw/)

The Des Moines Catholic Worker Community, founded in 1976, is a response to the Gospel call to compassionate action as summarized by the Sermon on the Mount. In the spirit of the Catholic Worker tradition, we are committed to a simple, nonviolent lifestyle as we live and work among the poor. We directly serve others by opening our home for those in need of food, clothing, bedding, a shower, or a cup of coffee and conversation. We also engage in activities that foster social justice.

Bishop Dingman House  
1310 - 7th Street  
515- 243-0765

Community members:

Brad Bates  
Fr. Frank Cordaro  
Jerry Dermody  
Claire Quiner  
Norman Searah

Mrs. Ligutti House

1301 - 8th Street  
515- 282-0583

Community members:

Mike & Fran Fuller  
Yusupha Sanneh

Community Garden

Garden Coordinators:

515- 279-6368  
Sheila Rouse  
Fran Fuller, Assistant

Lazarus House

1317 - 8th Street

515-246-1499

Community members:

Ed Bloomer  
The Dawson family: Carla  
Julius, Joshua & Jordan  
Jackie Robinson  
Irving Schroeder  
Ted Walker

Chiapas House

713 Indiana Avenue

515- 282-4781

Peter Small

The Chiapas Project

Chiapas, Mexico  
Richard Flamer  
[flamerichard@hotmail.com](mailto:flamerichard@hotmail.com)  
Claire Quiner  
[claireann11@hotmail.com](mailto:claireann11@hotmail.com)



Friday Liturgy  
7:30 PM

Dingman House  
1310 - 7th

Des Moines, IA

Celebrate the Eucharist  
and spend time  
with friends.

Cor

Dear friend  
I hope t  
everyone c  
blessings.  
have been  
year. It ha  
to serve t  
guests, but  
a door ha  
window op  
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efforts to s  
praying fo  
men who  
answer to  
not an an  
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Community NEWS



...ura Fuller  
...additional costume

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me



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...30 PM  
...man House  
...0 - 7th  
...Moines, IA  
...e the Eucharist  
...spend time  
...h friends.



Dar Hurni and Carla Dawson

Dear friends and supporters,  
I hope this article finds  
everyone counting his or her  
blessings. We at the DMCW  
have been greatly blessed this  
year. It has been a challenge  
to serve the needs of our  
guests, but just when we think  
the door has been closed, a  
window opens up. We have  
been called on to step up our  
efforts to stop a war while still  
praying for the women and  
men who see war as an  
answer to our problems. *It's*  
*not an answer.*  
Fr. Frank is back with us on  
a limited basis having been  
at the Guthrie Center and  
St. Anora parishes until Easter.  
He is sticking to a plan to cut  
red meat and sweets. His  
weight is down, and he is back  
swimming. His near-death  
experience has been a wake-  
up call to many of us. Please  
keep him in your prayers.  
Eddie got to take a much-  
deserved vacation over  
Thanksgiving to visit his family  
in Kentucky. Eddie is truly an  
inspiration to us all. He shows  
on a daily basis what living  
the Gospel call is all about.  
He is the cream of the crop.  
Our newest community  
member, Brad Bates, (no  
relationship to Norman) is a  
younger version of Eddie. He  
came to us having lived in  
community before. He has  
become a valuable asset to  
our community. He took over  
the produce run and is always  
willing to lend an ear. He  
frequently gives away his  
clothes and whatever else is  
needed by our guests.  
Vern (Ted) Walker went on  
an extended visit back home.  
In addition to being a Catholic  
Worker, he is employed by  
UPS loading trucks. He has  
just taken the Graduate  
Entrance Exam and did  
wonderfully. While home, he  
completed applications to  
some fine schools. Ted is the  
kind of young man parents are  
glad to call their own and is a  
terrific role model to my sons.  
He is the sunshine on a cloudy  
day. Love ya, Ted!  
Claire is a young lady with  
punk. Not only did she  
graduate from high school  
early, live part of the year in  
Chiapas, join the DMCW

community, go to school full  
time at DMACC, she also  
worked at CHC and she did all  
this with a good attitude. What  
a lot she has accomplished in  
her short life span of 18 years.  
*Claire, you are a daughter,  
sister and friend to be proud of.*  
Fran was a major contributor  
to the Feast of the Holy  
Innocents Retreat and  
Witness in Omaha in  
December. She is on shift  
nearly every day, picks up  
Patricia, and is a surrogate  
mom to Yusupha. She is  
planning an upcoming visit to  
Chiapas in February. Fran  
and Brad participated in the  
National March on  
Washington D.C. in January to  
protest war on Iraq.  
Mike is our resident gentle  
giant. He is not a man of many  
words, but his presence is  
very much felt. He has been  
working a tremendous amount  
of hours at his job and still  
finds time to get in a few chess  
games.  
Jackie is taking a much-  
needed break to visit friends  
in Missouri. She has been my  
anchor these last few years.  
She watches my sons when I  
go to school at night, works full  
time at Iowa Methodist  
Medical Center, and helps out  
at the House after work. Not  
bad for a nearly 40-year-old  
woman. *Thanks, Jackie, for  
keeping me on the right path.*  
Julius just completed his first  
semester at Kirkwood  
Community College. It is  
different not having him  
around all the time. We at the  
Worker are very proud of him.  
He is a fine young man and  
we look forward to his  
continued success.  
Josh is doing great in 8<sup>th</sup>  
grade. He has really turned  
himself around. We are trying  
to get him into the Scattergood  
Friends School. He would be  
an asset to their program while  
expanding his love for art.  
Jordan has had a rough  
transition to middle school.  
He was used to the family  
atmosphere at Moulton  
Elementary School. Going to  
a new school is always an  
adjustment, but we think he's  
turning the corner. He loves  
his math and science classes.

He just received an "A" and I  
got a call from his teacher on  
his Kareem Abdul Jabbar  
presentation. *Keep up the  
good work!*  
Jerry had successful  
cataract surgery on both eyes  
so he is seeing clearly now.  
Irving has been doing more  
laundry now that our upstairs  
washing machine is fixed. He  
still goes out even in this  
weather and collects cans. My  
sons say how much they love  
him. I am glad that they can  
finally see what a blessing he  
has been to us.



Sarah Johnson

Sarah Johnson, a Grinnell  
College student, has spent a  
lot of time with us this  
semester. She was here over  
Thanksgiving and spent a  
week with us in January. She  
is a gem. She calls and asks  
if she can come stay with  
us...like we would say "no" to  
such a great worker!

Jacquie Dammann, a Notre  
Dame student, was with us for  
a 48-hour Urban Plunge. In  
only 48 hours, she really grew  
on us. We hope she'll come



Brad Bates & Jacquie Dammann



Claire Quiner

back. *Have a great semester  
and thanks for choosing us.*

We have had a two-week  
visit from our friend, Dar Hurni.  
He and his wife started a  
Catholic Worker House in  
Sioux City, which ran for ten  
years, and the soup kitchen is  
still functioning. He wrote  
some excellent poetry while  
visiting us (see this page and  
page 6). While he was here,  
he received word that one of  
his poems will be published in  
*The Briar Cliff Review*. He  
took shifts on the House, went  
on walks with Eddie to the post  
office, participated in peace  
vigils, and helped out at the  
Saturday produce give-away.  
We were sad to see him leave,  
but hope he won't stay away  
long.

Richard Flamer has the  
Chiapas House up and  
running just in time to move to  
Chiapas. A lot of time and  
effort by many people turned  
that project into a reality. We  
wish him well on his journey.  
*May you travel with God.*

I want to send out thanks  
and prayers to everyone  
who makes our load lighter  
by continued prayers and  
donations. I have this little  
saying "there is no better  
nation than the *donation*."  
*May you all have a blessed  
year. Keep us in your  
prayers and we will do the  
same. Peace,*

Carla

## Feeding Angels

The wooden floors tan  
with broken bread  
crumbs fallen thin  
from the tables of the  
poor.

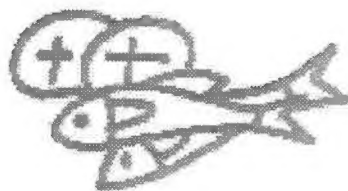
The room is an empty  
silence, as the poor  
Christ's have left  
into the evening.

When a split - ripple  
of space opens  
revealing an angel - tall  
and thin like thick  
corduroy with a child's  
grin, full and  
wholesome.  
Dressed in second-  
hand clothes of Jesus'  
glory the angel cast a  
smile playing my  
trumpeting heart a  
tune of joy!

All is well! All is very  
well! The angel leaves  
like an eyelash falling  
among the crumbs left  
by the poor.

Without notice I  
sweep the holy room  
knowing that we also  
serve angels with the  
bread of the poor!

*by Dar Hurni, long-  
time Catholic Worker &  
Friend*



## Norman's Whereabouts

*by Norman Searah*

Shortly before Christmas,  
nine Hispanic people were  
killed in a car wreck in Iowa.  
Though I didn't know them, I  
wish I had. I would have told  
the driver of one car to stop at  
a rest area and sleep, and I  
would have told the driver of  
the other car to slow down so  
that maybe the accident could  
have been avoided. It seems  
like everyone is always in a  
hurry. Why? Where are we  
going? But I know accidents  
do happen.

I believe that these nine  
people, along with other  
Hispanics who come across  
the border from Mexico into  
the United States, risk a lot.  
They come to this country for  
some of the things we have.  
No matter if we are rich or  
even poor, we are better off  
than people living in the  
poorest countries in the world.

These people who are  
referred to as aliens, often  
take jobs that a lot of  
Americans wouldn't do no  
matter what the pay rate was.  
If we don't want these people  
in our country as aliens, would  
it be better if they came to us  
as friends and tourists? I  
believe that we need to put an  
end to sweatshops where  
people are forced to work for  
low wages, in horrible  
conditions, and then go home  
to a place that might not be  
livable. They make products  
for America for low pay. Why  
don't we try to improve other  
people's lives by paying a  
living wage?

I believe we need to improve  
our economy, and we need to  
improve others' economies  
which creates more goodwill.  
I believe that we need to put  
an end to war and what  
causes war. We need to find

ways of turning people from  
aliens into friends.

We all live  
but one life.  
We all live on  
but one planet  
we call home.  
To destroy it  
is to end it all.

What have I been doing?  
I'm still taking people to a  
couple of Iowa prisons to  
see their loved ones. I'm still  
working on my diabetes. I'm  
still working at the rest areas  
and working around the  
Catholic Worker a lot. I'm  
still helping a lot of people.  
I help deliver coffee from El  
Salvador for Bob Cook, pick  
up sewing machines from  
the Columbia, MO, Catholic  
Worker for Richard Flamer  
to take to Chiapas, Mexico.  
Well, I thank you all.





## Charlie King and Karen Brandow

in Concert

Saturday, March 29, 2003, 8:00 PM

First Unitarian Church, 1800 Bell Avenue, Des Moines, IA

Charlie King and Karen Brandow represent a strong and rich tradition of music as a tool for justice for the downtrodden and for peace in a world bent on war. They have contributed their talents and have lent a hand in the struggles of workers here and in Latin America.

**Tickets:** suggested donation \$10 (or \$25 per family) Available at the door or call or email Fran Fuller at the Des Moines Catholic Worker, PO Box 4551, Des Moines, IA, 50306, Phone 515-282-0583 or [franciefuller@msn.com](mailto:franciefuller@msn.com)

## Should Christians Vote?

In the last issue of the *via pacis*, we asked if Christians should vote.

**Don Schrader said:**

"I oppose ALL war and ALL weapons of war. So in the 2002 election, I voted for no one for U.S. Senate or House because none of the New Mexico ballot candidates took that stand. I refuse to choose between mass murderers!

Both the Republican and the Democratic parties are drenched with the blood of millions they have robbed and murdered in many nations for many decades. There is not a dime's worth of difference between most Republican and most Democratic members of Congress concerning robbing and murdering our neighbors abroad.

I oppose for anyone to become a soldier. So I refuse to vote for anyone for President to be Commander-in-Chief of the U. S. military.

Leo Tolstoy's 1893 profound book, *The Kingdom of God Is Within You* passionately champions Jesus' revolutionary non-violence. Tolstoy's spiritual son, Gandhi, said after reading it, "I was overwhelmed."

Here we have a long list of judges for us to vote to retain or NOT to retain. I voted against them all, because all support evil "corrections" system based on returning evil for evil — punishing and branding offenders instead of helping them to change — official retribution and state revenge instead of restoration, reclamation and healing of the community.

I voted against all bond issues. I have never seen a government agency that could not spend more wisely and stretch the dollars they already

This is what you said.



have — even those agencies that do some good.

The most radical, non-violent action persons of conscience can take in this society is to pledge publicly to live simply, to own no car and to pay no federal income tax for war for the rest of our lives. I pledge this now at age 56. I lived well in 2001 on \$3,845. I have paid no federal income tax for war for 23 years."

**Jim Benzoni said:**

"Living responsibly in our world is the very heart of the Christian message of the Gospel. Voting is part of that living responsibly, just as is feeding the hungry or standing up for the powerless. Voting gives a voice to those who are otherwise voiceless. It is how we exercise our right to vote — with conscious awareness and care — and not whether that informs and guides our Christianity. Our charge is to bring Christian principles into a Godless worldly world. A failure to bear witness to our Christian responsibility to our fellow creatures is a failure to fulfill our mission as Christians in a very fundamental way.

A review of the Gospels shows that Jesus was not any

ideologue. Rather, he was a practical activist. He sought to empower people. His story of the person who buried his talents, or didn't bring oil for the lamp, or hid their light under the bushel basket shows his demand for our active participation in the world — showing the world how to live the Gospel here and now. Participation in civic matters, including voting, is part of that witness. The fact that our voice may not be heard or is tiny does not matter. Like the yeast, it only takes a little bit to leaven the whole loaf. It is the witness, and not the immediate results, that makes Christianity a reality."

**Brian Terrell said:**

"Potentially, voting does more harm than good. Voting, we should remember, is not doing anything to see that justice prevails. It is merely saying that if the majority wants justice, one is willing to go along with everyone else — a weak statement at best, dangerous if anyone thinks that they are accomplishing anything by it."

**Phillip Berrigan said in *Fighting the Lamb's War*:**

"I see no point in working within an evil system. Christ was never a reformer. He didn't advocate voting for one corrupt politician over another. He never urged people to embrace the state. He told parables about putting a patch on an old garment, which would soon unravel. He preached that we should dismantle, not attempt to patch, the state."

.....  
Beware the leader who bangs the drums of war in order to whip the citizenry into a patriotic fervor, for patriotism is indeed a double-edged sword. It both emboldens the blood, just as it narrows the mind. And when the drums of war have reached a fever pitch and the blood boils with hate and the mind has closed, the leader will have no need in seizing the rights of the citizenry. Rather, the citizenry, infused with fear and blinded by patriotism, will offer up all of their rights unto the leader and gladly so. How do I know? For this is what I have done. And I am Caesar.  
.....

~Julius Caesar



Faith Lutheran Church kids help serve desserts to our guests



Jacquie Dammann and Brad Bates baking cookies nonviolently?



Jack Petsche volunteers with his dad, Bill, on weekends



Patricia Dillenaar and Donna White are frequent guests and participants at Friday evening liturgy.

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## Box of Bones

It's All Saints Day and, as I stand in the cold light of the sun, an olive-skinned man a block away wearing a red-color plaid jacket holds his arms out like the crucified Christ.

He stares at me, then crosses the street. I wave a short wave - but he keeps staring with outstretched arms, giving me creepy thoughts about saints.

Is a saint like this leafless tree with its red crabapple fruit frozen tight to the lifeless limbs-outstretched-refusing to let go?

What would Saint Therese of Lisieux think as a macabre crowd walks by her bones stuck in a black box?

Let her go! She promises to love us with roses from heaven!

Dorothy Day - don't dismiss her so easily! Let her go and love the Jesus in the tabernacle and in the red plaid jackets! Want to honor a saint?

Honor those who irritate you the most because you will enter the march most quickly loving those children of God than in the honoring of saints in boxes.

Open your arms and pray for one another and when you lower your hands, I'm sure you'll find a rose.

by Dar Hurni, long time Catholic Worker & Friend



Arthur S. Fetters

My parched lips pause before uttering thoughts in this bleak and isolate landscape, afraid to ask for drink in such manipulative and uncaring society. I keep my needs, my desires, to myself, buried deep within the rich earth of my soul, where they grow to incredible size, unseen things struggling against unseen barriers as they seek light, or punishment, or perhaps even an acceptance of their own.

But they are restrained by - what? Is it caution, or stubborn pride? A combination of these is most likely, something twisted and confusing, a thing called by some "insecurity." Should I defeat this demon named "insecurity" and allow society access to the beautiful, though neglected, things of my soul? Will they once more be poisoned by the stagnant waters of humanity when the tide comes again?

by Arthur S. Fetters, Guest and Friend of the DMCW

One thing  
is  
needful



LUKE 10:42

Christ, I love you,  
not because you descended from a star,  
but because you revealed to me  
man's anguish and tears,  
and showed me the keys that open  
the closed doors of light.  
Yes, you taught me  
that man is God, a poor God  
crucified like you.  
The one at your left,  
at Golgotha—the worst thief—  
he, too, is God.

(This poem was found in Che Guevara's  
backpack after his execution, October 9, 1967)



SAINT THERESA  
of Lisieux

i am sorry

i am sorry  
for the life  
my people built  
on the bent backs of  
your people

i am sorry  
for the shame  
my people bring me

i am sorry  
for my inadequacy  
to end this war

most of all  
i am sorry  
you refuse to see me  
as a person  
singing a different song  
than the prejudiced  
mantra  
of my people

i am sorry  
to see  
the battles repeat

i am sorry  
to hear  
the hatred between  
your people  
and my people

i am sorry these people  
cannot believe  
that it doesn't need to  
be you against me  
your people and my  
people can become 'we'

it starts with two people  
and a friendly smile  
and when we speak  
our people listen

by Abigail Frank,  
North High School  
Student

Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. were both men who called on us to believe and act fully and completely. To them, the worst evil was indifference. As Heschel wrote, "The opposite of good is not evil, the opposite of good is indifference. In a free society, some are guilty, but all are responsible." King said, "To accept passively an unjust system is to cooperate with that system. And in doing so, 'the oppressed becomes as evil as the oppressor.'"



## In Memory of Four Peacemakers

by Fr. Frank Cordaro



Fr. Dick McSorely, SJ

### Fr. Dick McSorely, SJ, Presente!

Fr. Dick McSorely, a Jesuit priest from Georgetown University, died October, 2002, in Washington, DC. He was 88. If one Jesuit could redeem a Jesuit institution like Georgetown University from its nationalistic violent sins, it would be Dick McSorely. Dick entered the Jesuits in 1932. He was in the Philippines doing mission work before WW II when the Japanese took over the Philippines. Dick spent three years as a prisoner of war and suffered starvation and sickness during this time.

After the war, Dick returned to the states, was ordained a priest in 1946, and was assigned to a parish in southern Maryland. Dick soon got involved with the issues of segregation and civil rights. He came to Georgetown University in 1961, embraced nonviolence and taught peace studies. He's been at Georgetown ever since.

He marched with Martin Luther King, Jr. He was an early anti-Vietnam War protester and was arrested numerous times. One of the founders of Pax Christi USA, Fr. Dick was a great friend to Dorothy Day and the Catholic Worker movement. He helped start several DC Catholic Worker communities including the Dorothy Day Catholic Worker.

In the mid-1970s Fr. McSorely wrote an article, "It's a Sin to Build a Nuclear Weapon" in which he wrote: "Can you imagine Jesus pushing that button that would release nuclear weapons on millions of people? What it is wrong to do, it is wrong to intend to do. If it is wrong for me to plan to kill you, it is wrong for me to plan to kill you. The tap root of violence in our society is our intent to use nuclear weapons. Once we have agreed to that, all other evil is minor in comparison. Until we squarely face the question of our consent to use nuclear weapons, any hope for improvement of public morality is doomed to failure."

One of the first prison support letters I got in August of 1977 after doing a blood

spilling at the Pentagon was from Fr. Dick, and I did not even know who he was at the time. The last time I heard from Fr. Dick was this past year while in jail. He wrote to support me yet again.

Active and engaged, right to the last, Fr. Dick was quoted in our last issue of the *via pacis*: "(In) answer to your question, can a person be a good American according to the government view as well as a good Catholic, I know the answer is no. A good American believes in killing; a good Catholic doesn't."

Fr. Dick McSorely, may your soul rest in peace!

His autobiographic book, *My Path to Peace and Justice*, is available through the Catholic Worker Book Store at 1-800-43-PEACE or [www.catholicworker.com/bookstore](http://www.catholicworker.com/bookstore)



Kassie Temple

### Kassie Temple, Presente!

Kassie Temple, a member of the New York Catholic Worker community for close to 30 years, died of cancer in November of 2002. She was one of the people I first remember meeting at the NYCWer in the 1970s. A Canadian citizen, after receiving her Ph.D in the early 1970s, Kassie turned her back on a career in academia and chose instead a life of poverty and service in the Catholic Worker movement.

I first appreciated Kassie's academic back ground because of her knowledge of the French radical theologian Jacques Ellul. I remember talking to Kassie and reading some of the articles she wrote about Ellul's theology and its connection with the CW. However, her real love was for the Scriptures. Being with Kassie in a scripture study was like being at the feet of a beloved learned rabbi. You could tell that she not only knew the Word of God, she deeply loved it.

The last time I saw Kassie was at the 15th Anniversary of the Saints Francis and Therese Catholic Worker in Worcester, MA. Kassie was leading a workshop in the Scriptures. Someone asked her if she believed in hell. "Yes, I do," she said. "I'm just not sure anyone is there."

Kassie Temple, may your soul rest in peace.



Ladon Sheats

### Ladon Sheats, Presente!

A former top executive of IBM in the 1960s turned nonviolent resister to war, Ladon died August 7, 2002, in Santa Maria, CA, at the age of 68 from cancer. He was in the loving care of close friends and Catholic Workers. A former member of Jonah House, Ladon became well known in Catholic Worker - resistance circles over the years for his consistent nonviolent resistance to war, his simple lifestyle, his love and service to the poor, his strong spiritual base and his clarity of thought.

I first met Ladon Sheats in August of 1977. We were arrested together at the Pentagon on Aug 9th. After ten days in a DC jail, we were dragged before a federal magistrate judge in Alexandria, VA, for trial. Up to that point, the federal judges were giving people time served for similar Pentagon protests. Friends from Des Moines had made the trip to DC for my trial, and I expected to go home with them. So, when I received a 30-day sentence from the judge that day, I returned to the holding cell in a near state of shock.

It was Ladon who listened to me express my disappointment. He comforted me in my grief and challenged me to look beyond the 30-day sentence, and start asking myself if I had what it took to be doing this resistance work five, ten or fifteen years from now. Because, Ladon told me, this struggle demanded a life-long commitment.

Through the years, Ladon lived his "talk" in a most generous and gentle way. And in the process, he inspired many of us Catholic Workers for many years. I last saw Ladon in Omaha, NE, at our May 29th Labor Day Demo at Offutt Air Force Base. He crossed the line and got a ban and bar letter with Sam Day among others that day.

Ladon Sheats, may your soul rest in peace.



Fr. Mike Colonnese

### Fr. Mike Colonnese, Presente!

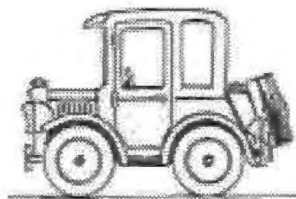
Fr. Mike was a Catholic priest from the Diocese of Davenport, IA. In the 1970s, Fr. Mike was the first head of the U.S. Bishops' Latin American Office in Washington, DC. He became a strong supporter of liberation theologians which got him in trouble with the Nixon administration and resulted in his being kicked out of his office. Disillusioned with official Church structures and leadership, Fr. Mike moved to Mexico and started working with progressive labor and radical grass roots social justice groups. He eventually moved to El Salvador and joined the armed revolutionaries as a chaplain - priest.

He soon became disillusioned with the politics

of violence and returned to the states in the early 1980s. He will witness to the peace of God when we at the Catholic Worker Center celebrate Fr. Mike personally. Those of us who were in Latin America during the 1970s and 1980s will remember Fr. Mike's life. By the end of the 1980s, Fr. Mike had returned to the United States and started working with progressive labor and radical grass roots social justice groups. He eventually moved to El Salvador and joined the armed revolutionaries as a chaplain - priest.

Fr. Mike died in 2002 of diabetes. May his soul rest in peace.

Alternative media sources  
[www.commondreams.org](http://www.commondreams.org)  
[www.alternet.org](http://www.alternet.org)  
[www.fair.org](http://www.fair.org)  
[www.afsc.org](http://www.afsc.org)  
[www.war-times.org](http://www.war-times.org)  
[www.counterpunch.org](http://www.counterpunch.org)



### Mini-Van Needed

Our community is in need of a mini-van. Ours is in the shop more than it's out! We don't care what it looks like as long as it runs good! If you have one you'd like to donate, please give us a call at 515-243-0700.

# Resistance Notes

## First Annual - Midwest Regional Resistance Gathering

of us have been recently focusing our attention upon exposing particular aspects of the machine in our regards, which seems to everywhere if one looks enough. The aim of annual gathering is to spirit each other in this resistance work and to create a midwest network to support each other on what we are doing within our communities and to create a regional community. We will come together to witness that "The War-Making Lying

implications for these harrowing times.

### Friday March 21st

\*Welcome dinner hosted by St. Louis Catholic Worker at 5 pm

\*Saco & Vanzetti workshop by Charlie King and Karen Brandow- 7:30 pm - Free.

### Saturday March 22nd

\*Teach-ins, Roundtable Discussions and Nonviolence Training

\*Kathy Kelly, long time Catholic Worker and co-founder of Voices in the Wilderness, will be speaking about her recent extended stays in Iraq and reflections on the building movement.

\*Charlie King and Karen Brandow Benefit Concert for the Peace Economy Project at St. Louis University at 8 pm. Tickets \$15 or donation.

### Sunday March 23rd

\*Interfaith/ Interactive Service and Gathering at Boeing's "smart bomb" facility 10 am

\*Teach-ins presented by the

Colombia Mobilization, specifically addressing the role of Monsanto's Ultra Round-up in the arial fumigation of life forms throughout Colombia. 2-5 pm

\*Nonviolence training and affinity group formation for Monsanto action 6-9 pm

### Monday March 24th

(Anniversary of the assassination of Archbishop Oscar Romero)

\*Gathering and Nonviolent Direct Action at Monsanto at 10:00 am.

\*Monday evening celebration and "Victory Party"

All of the teach-ins, breakout sessions & most of the housing will be at Christ Church Cathedral located in downtown St. Louis. If you have any questions, you may contact Chrissy Kirchhoefer at [chrissykone@yahoo.com](mailto:chrissykone@yahoo.com) or 314-660-2300 or Elizabeth Madden at [elizabeth@ifcla.net](mailto:elizabeth@ifcla.net) or Steve Jacobs at [sfhw913@aol.com](mailto:sfhw913@aol.com) or 573-443-0096

## 2002 Feast of the Holy Innocents Retreat, Witness & Line Crossing



Murphy of Platteville, SD, (holding the banner above) were this line-crossers at the annual gathering at Air Force Base in NE. Their report is reprinted below: We are here as people of the Feast of the Holy Innocents. King Herod felt threatened by a child born and perceived as a rival. The result was mass

threaten millions of lives. We are here as peacemakers to protest such threats to our world.

We are afraid for the human community, for you young airmen, for all innocent people who will pay with their lives when they get in the way of the war machine.

As General Eisenhower said, "Every warship launched, every weapon made, is in the final sense a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed."

We stand here today to denounce as evil the mass military spending which leaves many cold, hungry, and without health care. In the words of Jesus, "Love one another."

After reading their statement, both were arrested, issued "ban and bar" letters and released.

### Letter to the Editor:

For whatever it is worth, I am glad there are the few who protest at places like Offutt [Air Force Base]. Your actions are not losing ones, because they keep people like me aware of what the real issues are. I recall the clarity of thought I felt when I did similar actions in Missouri and Wisconsin. Just hearing about the Feast of the Holy Innocents actions reminds me that God is calling me to not get so immersed in daily family and work life that I forget I am the beneficiary of a violent system. I simply have figured out how to respond to that call in my current circumstances.

Peace, Tim Doran

"Our foreign policy has been a disaster for a long time. Our overriding purpose, from the beginning right through to the present day, has been world domination - that is to build and maintain the capacity to coerce everybody else in the planet: nonviolently, if possible; and violently if necessary. But the purpose of our foreign policy of domination is not just to make the rest of the world jump through hoops; the purpose is to facilitate our exploitation of resources. And insofar as any people or states get in the way of our domination, they must be eliminated - or, at the very least, shown the error of their ways." Ramsey Clark, Former US Attorney General

## Over 200,000 Anti-War Protesters Demonstrate in Washington, DC and San Francisco



Fran Fuller & Brad Bates

January 18th marked the largest U.S. demonstrations yet against war with Iraq, with coordinated demonstrations held in more than 30 countries — including Japan, Ireland, Egypt, Spain, Argentina, South Africa, Jordan, Belgium, Syria, Hong Kong, Russia, Germany and Britain.

Five busloads from Iowa made the trip to DC including DMCWers Fran Fuller and Brad Bates as well as Bill Basinger and Iowa Senator Jack Holbeck.

The rally featured such speakers as former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark, civil rights activist Mahdi Bray, actors Jessica Lange and Tyne Daly, Representative John Conyers, Reverend Jesse Jackson, former Congresswoman Cynthia McKinney, Reverend Al Sharpton, author and Vietnam vet Ron Kovic, singer Patti Smith, Reverend Herbert Daughtry, and Elizabeth McAllister.

The demonstrations shattered the myth that there is a consensus of support in the United States for Bush's war of aggression against Iraq. Mr. Bush and his war cabinet would be wise to see the demonstrators as a clear sign that noticeable numbers of Americans no longer feel obliged to salute the administration's plans because of the shock of September 11 and that many harbor serious doubts about his march toward war.

Millions of Americans who did not march share the concerns and have yet to hear Mr. Bush make a persuasive case for attacking Iraq.



DMCWer Richard Flamer (in sunglasses) was one of 14 arrested at the Iowa National Guard

## Trial Set to Begin February 3

Fourteen people were arrested at an anti-war rally at the Iowa National Guard in Des Moines on October 26, 2002. Five of those arrested (Brian Terrell, Brian Turner, Jennifer and Kent Davis Sensenig, and Christine Gaunt) decided to plead "not guilty" and asked for a jury trial. "They see this as one more opportunity to witness for the way of peace to their fellow Iowans and raise awareness and hopefully resistance to this war," said Kent Sensenig. They will be represented by Sally Frank. Contact Catholic Peace Ministry at 515-255-8114 or [cpm-ia@juno.com](mailto:cpm-ia@juno.com) for details.



*via pacis*

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## DMCW NEEDS

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Prayers! Without them, none of the rest matters. (REALLY!)

Van! Our mini-van gets a lot of use and is in the shop more than it's out. If you have a mini-van in good condition to donate, it would be greatly appreciated.

Money! Maintaining our three old houses is a constant challenge and since we're not a non-profit organization, we don't get a break on property taxes. Cash donations large and small are always welcome and needed.

Renovation Needs! If you have not visited us in the last couple of years, you will be surprised at all the work that's been done on our houses. Still, there is a lot more that needs to be done. Ligutti House needs exterior painting and windows. Lazarus House needs a new roof and basement renovation. Dingman House needs basement shelving and an updated kitchen. All three houses need fire escapes and have electrical and plumbing needs. So good carpenters, plumbers and electricians are always needed. We need folks who can take on a specific project whether they do it themselves or pay to have it done.

Food and Stuff! We can always use canned and dry goods as well as toiletries. Especially needed are coffee, 100% fruit juice, breakfast cereal, canned fruit, vegetables, beans, soup and stews, disposable razors and shaving cream, shampoo, hand soap, toilet paper, tissue, paper towels, maxi-pads and tampons.

Finally, we are always looking for individuals or work crews to help with maintenance and general cleaning. There is a lot of yard and garden work to be done. People are always welcome to come and help us out with the hospitality. Just give a call or drop by.

Thanks for your continued support.

The Des Moines Catholic Worker, 1310 - 7th St., Des Moines, IA 515-243-0765

Please send contributions to: PO Box 4551, Des Moines, IA 50306

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